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NSC BRIEFING

15 June 1955

EGYPT-ISRAELI PROBLEMS

- I. Situation along Gaza border still quiet -- only two minor shooting incidents since 30 May; no unusual military activity reported from either side.
- II. Prospects dinner for ^{USEFUL} Egypt-Israeli talks
 - A. Egyptian note to UN on 10 June accepts proposal for talks, but
 1. Limits agenda to four points already suggested by UNTSO Burns;
 2. Defines Nasr border proposal as one to establish "neutral" rather than "demilitarized" zone.
 3. Supplementary information indicates Lt. Col. Gohar, rather than "general officer" requested by Israel, appointed as Cairo's representative at talks.
 - B. All these points unlikely to meet Israeli views.
 1. Use of word "neutral" especially objectionable as putting cloud over Israeli sovereignty its side of demarcation line.
 2. Prime minister Sharett told American ambassador on 11 June that "whole thing had fizzled out."
- III. Conclusion--Situation likely to continue inconclusive for immediate future. Border incidents may resume at higher rate, as before 30 May.

DIA and DOS review(s)
completed.

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DOCUMENT NO. 15
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S/C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1990
AUTH: HQ 70-2
DATE: 14 Jan 80 REVIEWER: []

EGYPT-ISRAELI PROBLEMS (Late Addition)

IV. American Attache Tel Aviv reports, [REDACTED]

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DIA

[REDACTED] on 15 June, 15,000

Israeli troops in battle maneuvers in central sector Palestine moving southward with heavy construction equipment and oil trucks.

- A. About 15,000 Israeli troops already in south Palestine considered definitely superior to 15,000 Egyptian troops in area.
- B. Despite ominous appearance, attack on Egypt not expected. Maneuvers likely aimed at ~~impressing~~ impressing Arabs and demonstrating to Israeli populace government's aggressive preparedness.

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